



THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO

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Sewer Rehabilitation Construction Jobs

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the City rehabilitating sewer mains?

The City of San Diego and the Environmental Protection Agency have established an ongoing program which mandates the rehabilitation of old and deteriorated concrete sewer mains. These projects will improve the sewage collection systems and increase service reliability for residents, businesses and tourists alike.

2. Will I lose sewer service to my home during construction?

Not entirely. Residents are asked to minimize the usage of the sewer system to the greatest extent possible for no more than a day, while rehabilitation activities take place.

Recommendations include avoiding the use of washing and drying machines, taking showers and baths, doing the dishes, limiting toilet flushing, and other activities that would flush large amounts of materials to the sewage system.

Failure to do so may result in sewer drain backups into homes. Residents will be notified 24 hours in advance prior to this work.

3. Will there be digging and trenching on my street?

The City of San Diego is now using a non-intrusive rehabilitation technology that does not involve trenching and digging of the streets. This technology was chosen to minimize impacts to the community, while effectively rehabilitating old and deteriorating sewer mains.

However, digging might be necessary on the street or on property easements in case a point repair is needed or an unforeseen finding requires it.

4. Does this cost me anything?

No. Sewer rehabilitation jobs only begin when funding has been identified and appropriated.

5. How is this going to impact me?

Since the City is using trenchless technology to rehabilitate the sewer mains, and using existing manholes and cleanouts to access the mains, the impact to the community should be minimal.

"Working together to engineer a better tomorrow."

If you have any questions about this project or the Engineering & Capital Projects Department, please call our Public Information Line at (619) 533-4207 or visit us online at www.sandiego.gov/engineering-cip.



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If there is a manhole or a clean-out in a sewer easement on your property, access to your property will be requested.

6. How will traffic be impacted?

If streets need to be temporarily closed, the contractor will obtain traffic control plans approved by the City, which will protect public safety around the project area and mitigate traffic impacts as effectively as possible.

7. Will my laterals get rehabilitated as well?

The rehabilitation of sewer mains does not involve the rehabilitation of private property laterals. However, private laterals will be reconnected to the sewer main once the rehabilitation has been completed.

8. The City is requesting me to sign a Right of Entry Permit. What is this and why do they have to come onto my property?

Sometimes, the sewer mains that have been identified for repair and rehabilitation are located in utility easements in private property, including backyards and front lawns.

A Right of Entry Permit allows City staff and the project's contractor to enter private property and perform the necessary work. Residents will be notified 24 hours in advance before City or contractor personnel is scheduled to enter the property.

9. I smell a chemical odor and I see the crews are wearing face masks/breathing equipment. Should I be concerned about the smell and air I am breathing?

Odor generation might result from a material called resin used to solidify the lining that is installed along the walls of the sewer main. There is no danger to residents and homes near the project area. You will see construction crew members wearing personal protective gear, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Organization (OSHA), to enter the manholes safely and prevent the inhaling of tiny fibers resulting from construction activity inside the manholes. Residents near the construction area should not be concerned about exposure to these elements, as they are nowhere near the sewer pipe.

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